

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 596

Introduced by Assembly Member Dutton

February 18, 2003

An act to amend Section 4600.2 of the Labor Code, relating to workers' compensation.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 596, as introduced, Dutton. Workers' compensation.

Existing workers' compensation law generally requires employers to secure the payment of workers' compensation, including medical treatment, for injuries incurred by their employees that arise out of or in the course of employment.

Existing law provides that when a self-insured employer, group of self-injured employers, insurer of an employer, or group of insurers contracts with a pharmacy, group of pharmacies, or pharmacy benefit network to provide medicines and medical supplies to injured employees, those injured employees who are subject to the contract are required to be provided with medicines and medical supplies as prescribed in the contract for as long as the medicines or medical supplies are needed to treat the injury. Existing law requires that these contracts comply with standards adopted by the administrative director.

This bill would make a technical, nonsubstantive change to these provisions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 4600.2 of the Labor Code is amended
2 to read:
3 4600.2. (a) Notwithstanding Section 4600, when a
4 self-insured employer, group of self-insured employers, insurer of
5 an employer, or group of insurers contracts with a pharmacy, group
6 of pharmacies, or pharmacy benefit network to provide medicines
7 and medical supplies required by this article to be provided to
8 injured employees, those injured employees that are subject to the
9 contract shall be provided medicines and medical supplies in the
10 manner prescribed in the contract for as long as medicines or
11 medical supplies are reasonably required to cure or relieve the
12 injured employee from the effects of the injury.
13 (b) Nothing in this section shall affect the ability of
14 employee-selected physicians to continue to prescribe and have
15 the employer provide medicines and medical supplies that the
16 physicians deem reasonably required to cure or relieve the injured
17 employee from the effects of the injury.
18 (c) Each contract described in subdivision (a) shall comply
19 with standards adopted by the administrative director. In adopting
20 those standards, the administrative director shall seek to reduce
21 pharmaceutical costs and may consult ~~any~~ relevant studies or
22 practices in other states. The standards shall provide for access to
23 a pharmacy within a reasonable geographic distance from an
24 injured employee's residence.

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